

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ADVISORY QUESTIONS

Questions 51 & 52: Deer Baiting & Feeding Penalties

Feeding and baiting of deer alters natural movement patterns of deer. This results in deer feeding at night and causes less day time deer movement during the fall deer hunting seasons. Feeding and baiting of deer also concentrates deer on private land deer sanctuaries. This reduces the numbers of deer available to hunters on nearby public and private lands, helping to frustrate deer herd management and control. The widespread use of deer baiting and feeding in Wisconsin is also resulting in an entire generation of hunters who rely on it as the only method they know for deer hunting. Rather than learning how to study deer sign, movement and ecology, they merely place out bait and wait.

Because of the competitive baiting between adjacent hunters and landowners, wardens are seeing an increased incidence of illegal baiting (more than 2 gallons per bait site or with adjacent bait piles less than 100 yards apart) and an increase in hunting after legal hunting hours since many deer wait until dark to feed at bait piles. Wardens also report a substantial number of people illegally shooting deer from cabins and residences during the night at deer feeding sites located nearby. This takes away opportunity away from and tarnishes the image of law abiding hunters.

In addition, deer feeding and baiting artificially congregates deer in situations that can help spread disease in deer and elk populations. Due in part to deer feeding, the number of elk in northern Wisconsin has dropped to less than 110 animals during winter of 2005-06, putting the future of this herd and potential elk hunting seasons in Wisconsin at risk. Elk have died as a result of feeding at deer feeding sites, because of vehicle collisions, falling through nearby ice, or exposure to disease and parasites.

- **Would you favor legislation that would prohibit recreational feeding of deer from September 1 to January 1 each year?**

51. YES _____ NO _____

- **Would you favor an increase the penalty for violating deer baiting laws (i.e., more than 2 gallons per bait site or bait piles less than 100 yards apart) to a \$2,000 forfeiture plus a 5 year mandatory revocation of all hunting and fishing privileges?**

52. YES _____ NO _____

Questions 53: Rifles in Manitowoc County

Deer Hunters in Manitowoc County are restricted to the weapons allowed in the shotgun designated zones, like shotguns, handguns (including rifle cartridge handguns), and muzzle loaders to harvest deer during the gun deer season. There are no biological or safety reasons for the current restriction.

At present, state law does not permit the use of shoulder fired rifles for the hunting of deer in Manitowoc County. Only rifle cartridge hand guns are allowed. We feel that Wisconsin law should allow for the use of shoulder fired rifles to hunt deer during the gun deer seasons in Manitowoc County.

Shoulder fired rifles are more accurate at greater ranges. This may be beneficial in increasing the harvest of deer in a management unit (64) that has been over it's target population for several years in a row.

There is no data that indicates counties that are shotgun designated zones are safer than counties that are rifle designated zones. In reality shotgun designated zones account for a higher percentage of hunting incidents (shotgun zones make up 33% of the state yet account for 44% of all hunting incidents).

- **Should the DNR take action to allow the use of shoulder fired rifles to hunt deer in Manitowoc County?**

53. YES_____ NO_____

AIR, WASTE AND WATER COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS
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Question 54: Segregated Conservation Fund Accounts

In Wisconsin, nearly all of the funding for fish and wildlife management is provided through the sale of hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses, fee's and various stamps. These funds are, by law, deposited in the Conservation Fund, a segregated account to be used for fish and wildlife management related purposes. In 2005, the Wisconsin Legislative Joint Finance Committee proposed spending hundreds of thousands of dollars from the Conservation Fund, for purposes NOT related to fish and wildlife management.

The Air, Waste and Water Committee wants to ensure the Conservation Fund segregated account is used for the purpose it was created; the account needs more protection.

- **Should the State of Wisconsin establish the Conservation Fund segregated account be an inviolate account that, by law, can only be used for fish and wildlife management and the related purposes for which the funds were collected?**

54. YES____ NO____

Question 55: Non-toxic Sinkers and Jigs

Research has demonstrated lead sinkers and jigs are a potential threat to various waterfowl, particularly loons. Practical and affordable non-toxic material for sinkers and jigs are developed and are available.

- **Should the Wisconsin DNR establish a pilot educational program to promote voluntary sale of non-toxic sinkers and jigs for fishing in the waters of the state?**

55. YES____ NO____

BIG GAME COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS
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Question 56: Deer Baiting

- **Should deer baiting be banned statewide year round?**

56. YES____ NO____

Question 57: Deer Feeding

- **Should deer feeding be banned statewide year round?**

57. YES____ NO____

FUR HARVEST COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

Question 58: Possession of Green Pelts

Currently, Wisconsin law requires that no person can possess or sell the green pelts of any species, except beaver, beginning on the 5th day after the season closes for that particular species. Fur harvesters would like have additional time to prepare or sell green fur. This would allow hunters and trappers to better take advantage of fluctuating fur markets.

- **Do you favor eliminating the fifth day restriction on the possession or sale of green fur?**

58. YES____ NO____

Question 59: Preference Point Only Option for Bobcat, Otter, and Fisher

Bobcat, otter, and fisher permits are awarded on a preference point based lottery system. One preference point is awarded for each consecutive year in which an applicant applies for, but does not receive a permit. An applicant will not receive a permit before accumulating enough preference points. When an applicant has accumulated enough preference points, he or she must accept the permit.

Permits are awarded shortly before the beginning of the seasons for each of these species. Hunters and trappers have sometimes not been able to arrange vacations to use their permits because of the late notification.

Should a system be designed that would allow an applicant the option of receiving the permit, or only accepting a preference point would allow him to accept a permit only when he has accumulated enough preference points that he is sure that he will get a permit. He could then plan his vacation well in advance of the season. He could also wait to receive permits until he was sure of receiving permits for multiple species.

- **Do you favor allowing applicants for bobcat, otter, and fisher permits to select an option of receiving a preference point only when making their application?**

59. YES _____ NO _____

Question 60: Return Muskrat and Mink South Zone

Historically, Wisconsin was divided into three zones, with three different opening dates for trapping mink and muskrats. Starting in 2005, the old south zone was merged with the central zone. Starting dates across the state are now earlier than the old traditional dates. Some trappers are concerned about the primness earlier season furs. they would like to see a return of the old south zone.

- **Do you favor creating a new south zone for mink and muskrats, south of highway 60, with a season starting date on the Saturday between November 4, and November 10.**

60. YES _____ NO _____

GREAT LAKES COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

Questions 61 - 63: Smallmouth Bass Changes

The smallmouth bass fishery in the waters of Green Bay and Lake Michigan is famous throughout Wisconsin and the United States as a highly productive fishery, having a long history of consistently producing trophy size fish. The future of this smallmouth bass fishery is now threatened by an increasing population of round goby, an exotic species which has established itself in the Great Lakes. It is well documented that the gobies, along with crayfish, quickly move in and eat the eggs after the bass are removed from their spawning beds.

There is strong concern that the current smallmouth bass season in these waters does not protect the bass from being removed from their beds. The current fishing season structure for most of the Bay of Green Bay and Lake Michigan allows a daily bag limit of 5 smallmouth bass with a minimum length of 14" from the first Saturday in May through the first Sunday in March (Exception: The area around Washington Island where the season runs from July 1 to the 1st Sunday the following March). The season is currently closed during a period of time when the bass are not spawning and therefore provides no protection for the fish or their nests and eggs during the critical reproductive period for these fish.

Smallmouth bass in these waters typically spawn in mid to late May and the male bass then protect their eggs during the incubation period between late May and the end of June. Given average springtime water temperatures, most of the eggs will have hatched by the last week in June. Documented observations show reproductive success of smallmouth bass is significantly threatened by predators such as the round goby. DNR fisheries biologists have observed the eggs of smallmouth bass being consumed by round gobies and other predators in a matter of minutes after the adult bass is removed from the spawning bed.

- **Are you in favor of a higher level of protection for smallmouth bass and their developing eggs during the spawning period by allowing the smallmouth bass season for the entire Bay of Green Bay and Lake Michigan to remain closed from the first Monday following the first Sunday in March through June 30th, resulting in an open season from July 1st through the first Sunday in March?**

61. YES _____ NO _____

- **Are you in favor of a reduced level of protection for smallmouth bass and their developing eggs during the spawning period by allowing a "catch and release" season (e.g. zero bag limit) from the first Saturday in May through June 30th, followed by an open smallmouth bass season from July 1st through the first Sunday in March with a 5 fish bag limit on the entire Bay of Green Bay and Lake Michigan?**

62. YES _____ NO _____

- **Are you in favor of reducing the daily bag limit on smallmouth bass from 5 to 3**

<p style="text-align: center;">LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS</p>
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Question 64: Portable Ground Blinds with Blaze Orange

The popularity of portable ground blinds is increasing. These blinds totally conceal hunters and are usually made with camouflaged material. The hunter is required to wear blaze orange while hunting during the deer gun season there is no such requirement for these type of blinds. Wisconsin law should require that these blinds have a 6-inch wide band of blaze orange attached to the blind between 36 and 60 inches above ground level, and visible from 360 degrees around the blind. This requirement would be in effect during the deer gun season and the muzzleloader season.

- **Would you favor requiring portable ground blinds to have blaze orange attached as described above during any deer gun season and the muzzleloader season?**

64. YES_____ NO_____

Questions 65 - 67: Hunter, Angler and Trapper Bill of Rights

In recent years, there has been an increase of political intervention in the management of Wisconsin's natural resources including fish and wildlife management. In 1995, the Legislature transferred the appointment authority of the DNR Secretary from the citizen Natural Resources Board to the Governor.

During the 2005-2007 State Budget deliberations the Legislative Joint Finance Committee voted to remove \$1.35 million from the Waterfowl, Great Lakes and Wild Turkey Stamp Accounts and diverted the funds away from the habitat restoration and stocking purposes of these accounts.

In recent years there have been substantial political delays in legislative confirmation of Natural Resource Board members. Some Board members have not had confirmation votes by the State Senate for as long as five years after they have been nominated for the position. Such delays reduce the ability of Board members to make independent judgments on natural resource matters.

These actions have increasingly led to political intervention in the management of Wisconsin's natural resources, contrary to the interests of state's hunters and anglers.

Do you support the adoption by the State Legislature of a Hunter, Angler and Trapper Bill of Rights to include:

- **Do you favor a statute restoring to the Natural Resources Board the authority to appoint the DNR Secretary;**

65. YES_____ NO_____

- **Do you favor a state constitutional amendment prohibiting the diversion of fish and wildlife funds from their statutorily designated purpose; and**

66. YES____ NO____

- **Do you favor a statute requiring an up or down vote on Natural Resources Board nominees within six months of their nomination.**

Question 68: Farm Use Value

67. YES____ NO____

Voluntary conservation practices on Wisconsin's farms have greatly improved wildlife habitat, water quality, and soil conservation, at no cost to taxpayers. Taxes on agricultural land are controlled by use value assessment (Tax 18), but only lands restored through the Conservation Reserve Program or the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, etc. retain agricultural classification. Lands restored voluntarily, *without subsidies*, or through other enrollment programs (e.g., WRP or USFWS programs) are subject to reclassification and, in many cases, consequent tax increases. What is worse, portions of existing farms that have already been restored cannot be subsequently enrolled in programs that qualify for agricultural tax treatment under Tax 18. Retention of these voluntary conservation practices is thus discouraged by the resulting higher tax. Per acre taxes on voluntarily established conservation practices has already risen on some farms to twenty five times the use-value tax.

The restoration and preservation of wetlands and riparian buffer strips on farms is consistent with goals of the WDNR, and numerous federal and state programs, and improves wildlife habitat, water quality, and soil conservation on Wisconsin farms. Farm owners who did the right thing before government established programs to encourage it, or who did the right thing without applying for government subsidies, should not be punished by unfair taxation for doing so. State property tax policies should treat voluntarily protected wetlands and buffer strips on farms the same as those that receive annual subsidies. Alternatively, already established farmland conservation practices on and adjacent to wetlands and streams should be permitted to enroll in a program that does qualify for farm use-value tax assessment.

- **Do you support that the Department of Natural Resources endorse, and request the Legislature and the Departments of Revenue and Agriculture undertake, a review of property taxes on farm conservation lands to identify and implement sensible and fair solutions to these concerns?**

68. YES____ NO____

Question 69: Uniform Slow-No-Wake

Wisconsin lakes currently have a 200 foot from shore slow-no-wake buffer for personal watercraft use. There is a 100 foot slow-no-wake rule from piers, docks or buoyed restricted area for all other motorboats.

Research has indicated that wakes cause our shorelines to suffer erosion and damaging sediment/nutrient stirring effects that damage and destroy spawning and nesting areas. In an effort to protect the environment and reduce safety incidents would you favor the question below?

- **Would you be in favor of a 100 foot from shore, piers and rafts slow-no-wake rule for motorboats, with the understanding that the 200 foot from shore slow-no-wake rule would remain for personal watercraft?**

69. YES ____ NO ____

Question 70: Discharge of a Firearm

Wisconsin law states that one must have a 100 yard radius from a residence, in which one cannot discharge a firearm on lands they do not own, including public lands. Consequently, in areas where people build homes on the boundaries of public hunting areas, hunters lose up to 100 yards (from the residence) of public lands on which one cannot discharge a firearm.

The land surrounding these public lands is extremely desirable by homeowners and developers with residences constructed very near the boundaries of adjacent public land thus eliminating large amounts of public hunting land. Other states, including Minnesota, have restrictions to discharging firearms within a certain distance from a residence but exclude this restriction on public land when discharging a firearm is done in a safe and proper manner.

- **Would you favor the DNR implement an exception to current law prohibiting the discharge of a firearm within 100 yards of a residence while on public property?**

70. YES ____ NO ____

<p>OUTDOOR HERITAGE & EDUCATION COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS</p>

Question 71: Ban on Shining

Shining violations have increased in recent deer gun seasons. Shining promotes poaching and trespassing. By the State of Wisconsin eliminating shining the burden of these violation calls would be taken off the back of DNR wardens and local law enforcement.

- **Do you favor the Legislature take steps to correct this situation by implementing a statewide ban on the shining of wild animals yet allow the use of light at the point of kill for species that can be hunted at night?**

71. YES ____ NO ____

TROUT COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

Question 72: Create a Single Standardized Statewide Trout Regulation

In 1990, trout streams were grouped into 5 categories that allowed various streams and fisheries to be managed according to their biological potential. In 2003, the regulations were reviewed and modified to reduce the category number to 4, simplify the regulations and continue to manage the streams dependant on their biological and physical capabilities.

While some anglers feel there is a need to manage trout streams on a category basis to optimize the fishery, there is concern by others that regulations are still too complicated and have driven fishers away from the sport of trout fishing. Although, not supported by scientific evidence, some individuals feel that regulations may be responsible for the drop off in youth recruitment to the trout fishing ranks.

- **Would you support the standardization of a statewide trout regulation that would allow for a 3 bag trout limit with a 7 inch size restriction?**

72. YES ____ NO ____

TURKEY COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

Question 73: Landowner Preference

Currently, to be eligible for Landowner Preference you must own 50 or more acres in one parcel in the zone you apply for. Some landowners own land in different parcels. Landowner Preference should be available for landowners who have ownership of 50 or more acres of adjacent or non-adjacent land in the zone they apply for.

- **Do you favor changing landowner preference from 50 acres in one parcel to 50 acres of adjacent or non-adjacent land in the same zone you apply for?**

73. YES ____ NO ____

WARM WATER COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

Question 74: Walleye size limit – Lower Wisconsin River

The purpose of the current 18" rules was to improve the walleye reproduction by increasing the number of brood stock. The current 18" size limit on walleye directs harvest on spawning females, who mature at 18". No evaluation has been conducted to evaluate the impact of the current 18" size limit on walleye. However, anglers would prefer to harvest walleyes that are in a range of 15 to 20 inches in size. This would be consistent with the slot limit currently in place above Prairie du Sac dam.

- **Do you favor the DNR take steps to allow the harvest of 15 to 20 inch walleye with a bag limit of 3 walleye with the option of 1 walleye that could be harvested at 28 inches or larger on the lower Wisconsin River?**

74. YES ____ NO ____